

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system and a method forward articles such as mail pieces. In operation, an initial determination is made as to whether the article has been previously handled and is subject to a redirection or ad hoc forwarding. If the article is subject to ad hoc forwarding, another determination is made whether the article recipient has maintained an account to cover the expense of the forwarding. If no account is present, the recipient is given the option, for a limited time, to establish such an account. If no account is established within that time, the article is not delivered and may be destroyed. If an account is present, the article is forwarded and the account debited.